
**Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee**

HB 1122

Brief Description: Improving forest health on state trust lands by continuing the use of contract harvesting for silvicultural treatments.

Sponsors: Representatives Kretz, VanDeWege, B. Sullivan, Kagi, McCoy, Orcutt, Eickmeyer, Lantz, Warnick, Wallace, Hailey and Dickerson.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Removes the expiration date for contract harvesting on state trust lands with identified forest health deficiencies.

Hearing Date: 1/18/07

Staff: Jaclyn Ford (786-7339).

Background:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has the authority to directly contract for the removal of timber on state forest lands. The DNR contracts with a firm or individual to perform all the necessary harvesting work to process trees into logs; the DNR then sells the individual log sorts [RCW 79.15.500]. The contract harvesting program may not be more than 10 percent of the total annual volume of timber offered for sale by the DNR [RCW 79.15.510]. However, all contract harvesting operations that are conducted primarily for forest health are exempt from the annual 10 percent cap on contract harvesting sales [RCW 79.15.510].

Where there are identified health deficiencies in areas of state forest land, the DNR has authority to use contract harvesting or to conduct other silvicultural treatments. All harvesting and treatments must be intended to improve the health of the forest stand, and must be in accordance with all applicable forest health plans, laws, and other agreements. The DNR must also give priority to fulfilling existing forest plans when planning harvesting or other silvicultural treatments [RCW 79.15.540].

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Authority to use the contract harvesting program for silviculture treatments expires on December 31, 2007.

Summary of Bill:

Removes the December 31, 2007 expiration date, and maintains the authority for the DNR to use contract harvesting for silvicultural treatments on state trust lands with identified health deficiencies.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.